



LANDSAT 7 MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat 7 Mission, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Program News

Landsat 4/5 Status

On March 30, 2001, the USGS received notification from NOAA that the contract with Space Imaging, Inc. for operation of Landsat 4 and 5 has been transferred to the USGS. The Landsat Program Management Team is meeting regularly with Space Imaging regarding alternatives for operating or decommissioning either or both satellites with recommendations anticipated by May 1, 2001. Notification to data users and international cooperators will be distributed as quickly as possible regarding future plans.

Antarctica Discovery

Robert Bindaschadler, a member of the Landsat 7 Science Team from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, compared Landsat 7 images of the Pine Island glacier in Antarctica acquired 10 months apart and detected a crack extending two-thirds of the way across the glacier. Scientists predict the crack will result in the calving of a major iceberg within 18 months. Top television markets and the cable news networks in the U.S. did stories on the study and the value of satellite data for this application. The story and images can be found at the following Web site:

www.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfc/earth/envIRON/antarctic/pineisland.htm#images

Satellite Data Business Partners

The USGS EROS Data Center has recently signed up the 36th satellite data Business Partner. Business Partners are companies that buy USGS products, including satellite data, and redistribute the data either as-is or in some value-added form to their customers. Last year satellite data Business Partners purchased approximately 9 percent of the Landsat 7 products distributed by EDC. During the past quarter (January 1 to March 30), satellite data Business Partners accounted for 25 percent of the Landsat 7 data sales. See the USGS Web site for a list of Business Partners: **mapping.usgs.gov/www/partners/bpfind.html**

Technical News

Data Validation

The Hobart, Australia (HOA) and the Hiroshima, Japan ground stations have become the sixth and seventh stations to provide Landsat 7 data (Level-0Rp and Raw Computer Compatible, respectively) that can be ingested, processed, and validated. The biannual data validation schedule has been implemented. The first two ground stations on the schedule, Cordoba, Argentina, and Alice Springs, Australia, have provided Raw Computer Compatible and Level-0Rp Landsat 7 data respectively, that have been processed successfully to a Level 1G product and validated.

Fucino Ground Station Antenna Move

Telespazio, the company that operates the Fucino, Italy ground station, plans to move the Landsat 7 antenna from Fucino to Matera in southern Italy beginning the first week of April. The Landsat 7 antenna at Matera will be fully operational by the last week of June 2001. In the interim, Landsat 7 data will be collected at Fucino by a back-up antenna except for about one week of downtime.

Meetings

LTWG-10

Plans for the LTWG-10 meeting scheduled for the week of June 25, 2001 at the EROS Data Center are progressing. The meeting announcement with agenda and meeting logistics will be sent to LTWG representatives soon. Options for conducting portions of the meeting in the Black Hills of South Dakota are being examined.

Second LDCM Workshop

The Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) Data Specification, which defines the key data characteristics for the next Landsat system, has been revised based upon comments and

feedback received from the LDCM workshop in January. The revised Data Specification will be available for review after April 6, 2001 and will be the topic for discussion at the second LDCM workshop on April 23-24, 2001, to be held in conjunction with the upcoming American Society for Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. See the Web site: ldcm.usgs.gov

Landsat 7 Science Team Meeting

The meeting will be the week of May 21, 2001 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii. The 14 member Landsat 7 Science Team will meet to present the results of their investigations. Topics will include atmospheric characterization and correction, radiometric calibration, methods for analyzing large amounts of data, and detecting and monitoring change in forests, agricultural, and coastal areas.

Related News

Aqua Launch

The NASA Earth Observing System (EOS) PM-1 satellite, renamed Aqua, recently scheduled for launch in July 2001, has been rescheduled to September 2001, from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

EarthWatch Launch

EarthWatch has received NOAA approval to modify its Quickbird 2 satellite from the originally planned 1-meter resolution imaging system to a 61-centimeter resolution system, and announced that Quickbird 2 will be launched on a Boeing Delta II launch vehicle before the end of this year.

ASTER DEM Products

ASTER Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data sets may now be ordered using the EOS Data Gateway. The ASTER DEM data set is derived from the along-track, 15-meter ASTER optical stereo data acquired in the near infrared bands. These data should meet U.S. map accuracy standards for 1:50,000 through 1:250,000 scale maps (up to 7 meter absolute horizontal and vertical accuracy with appropriate ground control). Check the EDC DAAC Web Site for more information (edcdaac.usgs.gov).

The Landsat 7 Monthly Update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat 7 partners, to provide information about Landsat 7 activities and related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries may be directed to David Carneggie at the following email address: carneggie@usgs.gov.